

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A polycarbonate decomposition method comprising decomposing an aromatic polycarbonate obtained from 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) propane with water in a supercritical or subcritical state at an ion product (K_w) of ~~10^{-15}~~ 10^{-17} mol^2/kg^2 or less at a temperature of 374 to 430°C and at a pressure of 18 to 30 MPa to form 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) propane ~~an aromatic dihydroxy compound~~ as a dihydroxy compound component of the aromatic polycarbonate.

2. (currently amended): The decomposition method according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic polycarbonate is ~~a polycarbonate~~ contained in a thermoplastic composition containing the aromatic polycarbonate.

3. (canceled).

4. (canceled).

5. (original): The decomposition method according to claim 1, wherein the aromatic dihydroxy compound is recovered by crystallization.

6. (canceled).

7. (original): The decomposition method according to claim 1, wherein the dielectric constant of water in a supercritical or subcritical state is 10 or less.

8. (canceled).

9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended): A 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) propane ~~An aromatic dihydroxy compound~~-aqueous solution containing 1 wt% or more of 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl) propane ~~an aromatic dihydroxy compound~~ dissolved in water at a temperature of 10 to 100°C and a pressure of 0.1 to 10 MPa.